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MANIHOT SUBSPICATA (EUPHORBIACEAE) NEW TO TEXAS—

Shrublands on caliche bluffs and slopes in Jim Wells, Live Oak, and San Patricio Counties, Texas, are known to harbor populations of several plant species which, although variously distributed in northeastern Mexico, are otherwise absent from Texas. Species represented in Texas by such disjunct populations include *Caesalpinia phyllanthoides* Standl., *Cassia greggii* Gray, and *Boerhavia mathisiana* F. B. Jones.

A recent collection indicates that *Manihot subspicata* Rogers & Appan might be added to this list. This shrub, known from the Mexican states of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas (Rogers & Appan 1973), was collected in Jim Wells County at the Live Oak County line on the W side of Lake Corpus Christi. Two shrubs were seen at this site and a third shrub was encountered but not vouchered less than 1 km to the N in Live Oak County. Both sites are on dissected slopes where caliche of the Goliad Formation (Miocene) is exposed. Soils at the Jim Wells County site are mapped as shallow, well drained, droughty, moderately alkaline, grayish brown gravelly loam Petrocalcic Calciustolls of the Olmos association over undulating terrain (Minzenmayer 1979). No published soil survey is available for Live Oak County. Vegetation at both sites is a relatively undisturbed mixed evergreen/deciduous shrubland dominated by *Leucophyllum frutescens* (Berl.) I.M. Johnst., *Acacia berlandieri* Benth., *A. rigidula* Benth., *Calliandra conferta* Benth. ex Gray, and *Cassia greggii* Gray.

Manihot subspicata was not reported from Texas in Correll & Johnston (1970) or its update (Johnston 1990), or from the Texas Coastal Bend area in Jones (1977) or its update (Hill 1982). The question of the nativity of this taxon in Texas was immediately raised but will never be answered. While it is our opinion that this population is native to this interesting area, the simple fact that this conspicuous shrub has not been previously reported from a well botanized region of Texas suggests that *Manihot subspicata* may be a recent introduction.

Flowering specimens of this taxon will key in Correll & Johnston to the genus

Manihot, which is otherwise represented in Texas by *M. walkerae* Croizat. *Manihot subspicata* can be distinguished at once from *M. walkerae* on the basis of habit alone: *M. walkerae* is (in Texas) a herbaceous plant with trailing stems, whereas *M. subspicata* is a woody shrub with numerous erect albeit slender stems at least 1 m tall. A complete description of *M. subspicata* is provided in Rogers & Appan (1973).

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Voucher specimen: TEXAS. Jim Wells Co.: W side of Boat Ramp Rd, 0.2 mi S of Trail Ridge Rd, W side of Lake Corpus Christi, Sandia Quadrangle, 280323N, 975408W, 13 Jun 1992, W.R. Carr & P. McNeal 12054 (BRIT/SMU, TEX-LL).

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